

THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 24, 1919

WHOLE NUMBER 2105

Raise in Gas Rates Now Seems Probable

Ordinance to Raise Rate to \$1.45. Net. With \$1.00 Minimum Was Filed With Clerk Tuesday.

OTHER CITIES WILL ACT

St. Louis, Breckenridge and Ithaca Expected to Adopt Ordinances also.

A raise of twenty cents per thousand cubic feet of gas and the raising of the minimum charge for gas from fifty cents to one dollar by St. Louis, Alma, Ithaca and Breckenridge now seems probable, and it is hardly expected that the Gratiot County Gas company will be forced to go to the state utilities commission for aid.

The members of the city commission, the advisory committee appointed by Mayor Charles R. Murphy and delegates from St. Louis, Ithaca, and Breckenridge, were all present at a meeting held here Friday evening when Manager R. B. Wagner, in behalf of the Gratiot County Gas company, told of the necessity for higher rates, and the advisory committee to the commission later made a favorable report in this regard.

Mayor Murphy called the Friday evening meeting to order and then turned the session over to Mr. Wagner, who laid before the meeting the needs of the company. He told of the fact that one of his companies had at Wagoners, Ga., and how a rate of \$1.70 had been secured through the utilities commission of that state, after the council there had refused to lower continue an emergency rate of \$1.50. He spoke of the bitter fight at Lansing, where the city had spent \$12,000 in its fight and how the gas company had secured a higher rate.

Mr. Wagner stated that the earnings of the company since it was started had been only one and three-fourths per cent, and that during the present year the company was losing money. He stated that the loss so far this year is \$1,077.55, with the amount each month growing greater. In telling of the needs of the company, Mr. Wagner told of the expense of producing a thousand feet of gas today and a thousand feet in 1915, showing a thirty cent increase in cost at the plant.

When Mr. Wagner had brought his remarks to a close P. M. Smith of the advisory committee made a motion that it was the sense of the meeting that the raise be granted. It was immediately seconded. R. H. Hixox offered an amendment that a certified accountant go over the company's books to find out its needs. It was supported and on a vote adopted, as was the motion.

The committee elected Henry H. Soule as chairman and Harry Gerber as secretary and the report of the committee was then written up and later signed.

Monday evening the city council held a meeting at St. Louis at which time a committee of three was appointed to investigate the matter. Those in the committee are Romaine Clark, Mr. Raily, president of the board of trade, and Alderman Buck. The council there will hold another meeting Friday night and again take up the gas matter.

Tuesday evening the city commission here met at the city hall, and accepted the report of the advisory committee, and an ordinance was filed with the clerk, which will raise the rates of the gas company 20 cents per thousand cubic feet for gas and establish a minimum charge of \$1.00. This will make the rate \$1.45 net, per thousand for gas, if the ordinance is passed as now seems very probable.

Last night the village council met at Ithaca to act in the matter, but a report of the meeting there has not yet been made available. It is expected, however, that the action there would be favorable to the company.

BOOK FOR DISCHARGED MEN

A great demand has been created for a little book entitled, "Where Do We Go From Here?"—issued by the War Camp Community Service. Its entire contents treat matters of keen interest to all discharged soldiers. It was compiled by William Brown Maloney, formerly Major in the United States Army, for the express purpose of guiding right all men discharged from the service. It contains the "real dope," as the soldiers put it, and has all the inside "info" and is written in the language which all soldiers understand so well. Government Orders and Regulations are not quoted but are explained in clear, simple "American" language.

In order that these books may receive the widest distribution, the War Department has sent a large number of them to all Army Recruiting Stations. They are free and can be obtained at the Army Recruiting Stations in the following cities in western Michigan: 211 Monroe avenue, Grand Rapids; Muskegon, Niles, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Lansing, Alma, Traverse City, Cadillac, Ludington and Petoskey.

COWPERS COMING

Strong Detroit Team Will Meet Republics in Two Games Here.

The strong Cowpers aggregation of Detroit, which has been playing a great brand of baseball this year, will meet the Republics at Republic field Saturday and Sunday, and two good games are being expected.

Most of the fans are familiar with the strength of the Cowpers and the brand of baseball that the visitors will display, from a previous visit to Alma of this class Detroit club. In the previous series with the Republics the Cowpers won one game and lost one, and they are coming to Alma with the determination to take both games from the Trackmakers.

The Republics have been in a slump of late, but they are expecting to be back in their stride in the coming series and to give the Detroiters two great battles, and are in hopes of being able to make it two straight over the visitors. It has been demonstrated by the local aggregation that they have the strength to take nearly any team into camp, when they are going right, and if they have pulled out of the slump it would not be at all surprising if they slipped two games over the Detroiters in the coming games.

ORGANIZED BOARD

At a meeting of the school board last week the board members organized for the coming year, and elected officers as follows: President, Otto Sanderhoff; secretary, William Modler; treasurer, Fred Slater.

OLLIE WORDEN WAS

ARRESTED FRIDAY

Has Been Bound Over to Circuit Court to Stand Trial for Resisting an Officer.

OLLIE WORDEN of this city was arrested Friday night after having terrorized his family and his neighbors, while on what seems to have been one of his periodic drunks, and is now in the county jail awaiting trial on a charge of having resisted an officer.

Early Friday evening a call was sent in for the officers from a neighbor of the Wordens, and Oscar Vilber answered the call just as quickly as possible. When he arrived on the scene he found Worden near a neighbor's home, and asked him to come along quietly, that he was under arrest. Worden said that he would go, when he got good and ready, and when Vilber repeated the invitation to go along quietly, Worden made a grab for the officer, and a mix-up followed, during which Vilber's clothes were badly torn. The officer used his club on Worden, bringing him to time.

Rather than be forced to have another fight with him, Vilber called on two passersby to aid in putting Worden in Vilber's automobile, so that he might be taken to jail.

When Worden arrived at the jail a doctor was called and his slight scalp wound treated, and then he was taken to the county jail at Ithaca.

Saturday Worden was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Myers of Ithaca, where he entered a plea of not guilty. Monday Worden was taken before Judge Davis of Ionia, who was sitting on the Gratiot bench, for sentence, but at that time Worden backed up on his Saturday plea of not guilty. Bail was put at one thousand dollars, which has not yet been furnished.

Worden had been working Friday for Dr. T. J. Carney at his home on West Superior street, and during the afternoon located a vinegar barrel in the cellar, and it is claimed that he treated himself a number of times to this over-ripe, hard cider, which produced the drunk which Worden carried to his home, and which put him in such temper that he had the entire neighborhood frightened, especially after he had broken a considerable amount of furniture at his home, and broken many of the window panes.

Worden has been arrested a number of times in the past and has been treated with every consideration, but it is believed that this time he will be made an example of, especially in view of the fact that the city commissioners and the mayor had the opportunity to see Worden's condition and to hear him in action Friday evening. They are standing in back of the police force and urging that Worden be given time for reflection in jail.

FIRE AT ST. LOUIS

The fire department was called to St. Louis yesterday afternoon by the St. Louis department, when flames threatened a number of wooden structures just off from the main street of the city. Several streams of water were played on the flames by the departments of the two cities and the fire was quickly quelled, with a nominal loss to two of the structures.

OBITUARY

Mary A. Shults Abbott was born May 5, 1850, and died July 17, 1919, at the age of 69 years. She was married to David F. Abbott on July 3, 1872, ten children being born to this union, six of whom survive the mother. She also leaves thirteen grandchildren, her husband, one brother, three sisters and a host of friends.

HIGHER PRICES

WILL PREVAIL

This is Opinion of Grocers Who Met in this City the First of the Week.

THREE REASONS ARE GIVEN

Scarcity of Labor, Demand from Countries of Europe and High Freight Rates Mentioned.

A meeting of fifteen of the jobbers of Symons Brothers, wholesale grocers, was held in this city Monday at which time the proposition of high prices and freight rates was taken up, and gone over thoroughly by those members of the Michigan Wholesale Grocers Association, included among whom was John Clark of Bad Axe, president of the state grocers.

It was the opinion of the jobbers, who came from all parts of the state, that high prices would prevail for some time, probably another year at least. Prices higher than those which are now prevailing are being looked for. This is in part due to the extreme scarcity of labor and in part due to the great demand for products of America in Europe, which comes by reason of early depleted stocks in European countries.

The grocers are also looking for an advance in freight rates, which they expect will be at least twenty-five per cent, and which will also have its part in creating higher prices for food stuffs.

This is the first time that the jobbers of the company have met in this city, but it is probably not the last time that they will meet here. One of the reasons for the jobbers being brought here was the desire of Symons Brothers to have them inspect the company's modern plant in this city, which all of the jobbers praised highly.

AEROPLANE RIDE

Alma Man Writes of His First Trip Through Air for Alma Record.

Irvin H. Cady of this city, who was one of the number who enjoyed their first aeroplane ride last Sunday, has written the following account of the ride over the city, for The Alma Record. The account follows:

I distinctly remember my first lake voyage. During a trip from Michigan City, Indiana, to Chicago, a storm was encountered, but the sensation from that experience cannot be compared to the exhilaration of flying through the air a thousand feet high over the city of Alma last Sunday in a Curtiss bi-plane. It is claimed that an author with his Theraxus is able to find a word to express any shade of meaning, but I do not believe there are sufficient words in the English language to adequately express the pleasures of air navigation.

It was a common thing one day when inviting a friend to ride on a lake steamer, to hear him say, "Oh! I'm afraid of water travel." Well, you hear similar expressions in regard to air travel. I heard a woman say, "I'm afraid of becoming seasick," and another related, "I'm sure I would become unconscious at such a dizzy height." It is true, people should dispel any such thoughts. There is not that dizzy feeling when looking from a building. At no time did I feel any unpleasant sensations when looking immediately down. The earth below was one veritable quilt of beauty. Fields of green looked many times smaller than they really were, and had a level, soft, velvety appearance. It made one feel as though he would like to leap from the plane and put through space and bound on one of nature's velvet rugs.

We left the landing field west of the city and flew north for a few moments; then we turned to the right and flew over the country. Not being familiar with any of the country landmarks I here lost my bearings until we flew over the Pine river and I recognized the cement chimney of the waterworks. From here on I was able to recognize streets and homes with little difficulty. At one time I thought the pilot was going to pull a stunt by making a vertical bank, but he only made a sharp turn and we headed directly for the landing field. By this time I was ready for any stunt from a nose dive to the looping the loop. At an altitude of about eight hundred feet the pilot shut off the engine, pointed the nose downward, and we plunged to our landing place. Mr. Foley is reluctant about doing any stunts in the air with a passenger, although occasionally a passenger is accepted at the fare of \$100.

One wishing to see the enchanting beauties of this old world, and to witness an unprecedented and novel experience should make a flight in an aeroplane. If you do not, you are missing the opportunity of a lifetime. The price is insignificant.

If you are interested in the new wheel factory, see J. W. Blakely.—adv.

Eat Arctic ice cream at Paterson's drug store.—05-tf-c.

Circulation counts—we have it.

A BIG QUESTION

Splitting of \$2,000 Epler Case Reward Has Brought Appeals.

Mrs. William Baker, an aged Alma woman, residing on Court avenue, through a local attorney, has appealed from the decision of the board of supervisors of the county, who allotted to her \$150.00, as her share of the \$2,000 reward offered for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the death of Beatrice Epler here on the night of September 4, 1917.

The feeble old lady claims to have been the one who furnished David Beaudry with the first evidence that he had in working out the case, and upon this and important testimony given in the trial basis her claim to more than the amount which was awarded to her by the board.

Mrs. John Blank, also of this city, is desirous of sharing in the reward, and has filed a claim for the entire \$2,000 through an attorney at Ithaca. The \$2,000 reward money has not yet been paid, as the supervisors held out the paying of the reward until after twenty days, so that no appeals could be taken. The interested parties, however, soon found out what had been awarded them and are seeking more. There promises to be a stiff fight on hand yet before the award is made.

As voted by the supervisors David Beaudry was to receive \$1,400, James G. Kress \$400.00, Mrs. Baker \$150, and Charles Powers \$50.

Best candies. DeLuxe—77-tf-c

REPUBLICS WIN ONE

THEN TOSS ONE AWAY

Internationals of Bay City Received the Second Game of Series on Silver Platter.

One of the poorest brands of baseball that the Republics have shown this year was dished up for the fans in Sunday's game with the Bay City Internationals who took advantage of the many slips of the Republics, and capped off the battle by a 2 to 1 score, evening up with the Republics, who laced two hurlers on Saturday for seven runs, while the Ready-Cut Home Builders were taking a row of ciphers.

In the Saturday game Sherlow was sent to the box and the Elm Hall product had the visitors eating out of his hand at every stage of the game. He had all kinds of speed, and good control, using the two to a fine advantage. Only five hits were allowed the visitors, no two of which were given in any one inning. Using both his speed and control he kept the ball on the inside of the plate, so that the visitors for the most part were popping up flies or knocking weak rollers to the infield. Thirteen of the visitors whiffed at three and returned to the bench.

The Republics landed on the offerings of Atwood right off the reel. Hunter scored for the Trackmakers with a double. L. Bell and Chouinard grounded out. Oakes singled, scoring Hunter. D. Bell singled to center and Becker scored both with his double. Atwood got the hook, Jones going to the mound. Baum was safe on an error, Becker scoring. Smith grounded out.

In the sixth the Republics threw the gears into high again, scoring twice. Becker hit one to Jones that was too hot to handle, and then stole second, while Baum was teasing four wide ones from the hurler. Smith walked and the sacks were loaded. Baum was caught at third on Sherlow's infield tap, while Becker scored. Hunter singled to center and Smith scored. L. Bell fled to third and a double play resulted.

The final run was added in the eighth. Baum landed on one for three sacks. Smith struck out. Baum scored on Sherlow's single to left.

Line-up and summary:
REPUBLICS AB O A E
Hunter, lf 5 2 1 0 0
Guss, ss 4 1 2 1 0
L. Bell, 2b 4 1 2 1 0
Chouinard, ss 5 0 0 1 0
Oakes, m 4 3 1 0 0
D. Bell, 1b 4 2 5 2 0
Becker, 3b 4 2 1 3 0
Baum, rf 3 1 1 0 0
Devot, c 2 0 11 0 0
Smith, c 1 0 2 1 0
Sherlow, p 4 1 3 1 0
36 12 27 8 3

INTERNATLS
Parker, ss 4 0 1 3 0
Guss, 1st 4 0 10 0 0
King, m 4 2 3 0 0
Travenger, 3b 4 0 4 5 0
Glenky, c 4 1 5 0 0
Gardner, 2b 4 0 0 2 0
Carroll, rf 4 1 1 0 0
Kaiser, lf 3 0 0 0 1
Atwood, p 0 0 0 0 0
Jones, p 4 1 0 1 0
35 5 24 11 8

Innings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Internatls 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Republics 4 0 0 0 2 0 1 x 7
Runs—Becker 2, Smith, Hunter, Oakes, D. Bell—7. Three-base hits—King, Baum. Two-base hits—Hunter, Oakes. Stolen bases—Gardner 2, Becker. Double play—Travenger. Struck out—By Sherlow 13, by Jones 4. Bases on balls—Off Sherlow 1, off Jones 3.

Get your shampoo and manicure at E. Lewis's Beauty parlor.—adv.

Sufficient Water Not Being Secured

City Officials Making Investigation of All Matters Connected With Affair and Will Issue Statement.

COMMISSION NOT AT FAULT

Believed that New System May Yet Be Worked Out to Insure Plenty of Water.

Has the city of Alma put \$40,000 into some holes in the ground without having achieved the result that had been hoped for—that of securing a pure well water supply for the city, or will Alma eventually get her new pumping station in such shape that it will furnish enough well water for the city under any and all conditions?

Those seemingly are two questions which are causing great worry on the part of the city commission and William E. Reynolds, city manager, who have been only agents in this matter, as they have been carrying out plans adopted about two years ago to give this city a new, and pure well water supply.

Alma contracted for a supply of pure well water, which was to come from the ground at the rate of 2,000 gallons of water per minute. About 1,000 gallons of water is being secured at the present time, perhaps enough water to supply the very ordinary demands of the city, but an amount insufficient for Alma in case of a fire breaking out at any time.

The matter has been known by the city officials for upwards of a week, but they have wisely kept mum in regard to the matter until after having had an interview with Mr. Purcell of Jackson, the contractor, who put down the wells, and whose contract with the city called for a flow of 2,000 gallons per minute.

For one thing the city officials wanted to know what, in the mind of Mr. Purcell, constituted a well. It developed in the interview that a well in his opinion, consisted of a hole in the ground, it is reported.

The commission also desired to know if Mr. Purcell believed he had finished his contract here.

Yesterday morning Mr. Reynolds, city manager, was interviewed regarding the wells, and it seemed to be his opinion that if Alma is going to have sufficient pure well water from its new wells it must go to further expense and put up a standpipe in which surplus water may be stored until used. It was evident from the talk that this is the only method, in his mind at least, by which Alma may be certain of having a pure well water supply.

Mr. Reynolds was asked as to the contract between the city and Mr. Purcell, and stated that that was a matter for the city attorney to deal with. He spoke, however, in no uncertain terms regarding some of the work which Mr. Purcell had done, leaving the impression very clear on the mind that the contractor had slipped one over on the city.

Later James G. Kress, city attorney, was asked if the contractor had fulfilled the contract that he had entered into with the city, and his reply, short and to the point, was to the effect that it had not been.

There seems at the present time to be some question as to whether or not the wells have ever been formally accepted by the city. Mr. Purcell, it is understood, claims that they were accepted by the former city engineer. In the face of this, however, is a clause in the contract which provides that the wells shall in union, under test, furnish 2,000 gallons of water per minute. If the wells were accepted without such a test by the former engineer, it then becomes evident that there was a big laxity in his duties to the city.

The city still retains ten per cent of the \$40,000 which Mr. Purcell was to receive for putting down the wells as a forfeit, and this may possibly be forfeited. Just previous to the time that the new administration went into office a similar sum is said to have been paid to Mr. Purcell, which it is understood was to have been withheld until all of the wells were tested in union to see if the required amount of water was forthcoming.

The city commission and Manager Reynolds have been doing everything possible to carry on this work and give Alma water at the earliest possible date and they are now working to give Alma a good water supply, and it is believed that they will arrive at something definite very shortly, which will then be announced to the residents of the city, whom they are serving.

MORE COMING
CARD OF THANKS
We wish to thank our neighbors and friends who so kindly assisted us during our sorrow.

John Barry and family.

J. W. Blakely is the man to see about the stock in the new wheel factory.—adv.

DeLuxe candies.—77-tf-c